

CLAIMS

1. An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. An isolated nucleic acid coding for a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. A simian isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions with a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 1 or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto and which codes for a protein having ORL1 activity.

4. A simian ORL1 gene consisting of the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. A recombinant vector containing the simian ORL1 gene according to claim 4.

6. A transformant cell containing the recombinant vector according to claim 5.

7. An isolated protein consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 2.

8. An isolated protein consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 2 with a substitution, deletion, addition or insertion of one or more amino acids, and having ORL1 activity.

9. A compound evaluation method comprising:
a step of transferring a simian ORL1 gene into a cell to prepare a cell expressing the gene,

a step of contacting a test compound with the cell, and

a step of detecting specific binding of the test compound to a protein obtained by expression of the gene.

10. A compound evaluation method comprising:
a step of transferring a simian ORL1 gene into a cell to prepare a cell expressing the gene,
a step of contacting a test compound with the cell,
5 a step of assaying the activity of an intracellular signal transducer produced by the contact between the cell and the test compound, and
a step of comparing the activity with the activity of the intracellular signal transducer without contact with the test compound.

10 11. A compound evaluation method comprising:
a step of contacting a test compound with a simian protein having ORL1 activity, and
a step of detecting a change in activity of the protein caused by the contact between the protein and the test compound.

15 12. The compound evaluation method according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the simian is a rhesus monkey.